



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

333 SW First Avenue
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
503-808-2468

File Code: 1570

Date: August 31, 2011

Ms. Carol Hwoschinsky
443 Strawberry Lane
Ashland, OR 97520

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
NUMBER: 7010 1870 0002 4079 6507**

Dear Ms. Hwoschinsky:

This constitutes my decision, pursuant to 36 CFR 215.18(b)(1), on your appeal (#11-06-00-26-215) of Rogue River-Siskiyou Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy's Supplemental Record of Decision for the Mt. Ashland Ski Area Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Background

On April 22, 2011, Scott Conroy, signed a Supplemental Record of Decision (SROD) for the Mt. Ashland Ski Area (MASA) Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). The preparation of the FSEIS and SROD stemmed from the February 2007 ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that found the Forest Service failed to properly evaluate the impact of the proposed MASA expansion on the Pacific fisher, in violation of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and that it violated the NFMA by failing to appropriately designate riparian reserves and restricted watershed terrain and follow applicable standards and guidelines. The SROD affirms the 2004 decision, which includes:

- Clearing and construction of 71 acres of associated new ski run terrain primarily within the western half of the special use permit (SUP) area;
- Construction of two chairlifts, two surface lifts, and widening of existing runs; construction of a 4-acre tubing facility in the southern portion of the SUP area; construction of three guest services buildings and a yurt; additional night lighting; additional maintenance access road segments; and an increase in 220 parking spaces;
- Clearing approximately 4 acres for lift corridors, helispot, and staging areas;
- Watershed restoration projects including structural storm water control and non-structural controls, such as the placement of large and small woody material.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.17, an attempt was made to seek informal resolution of the appeals. The record indicates that informal resolution was not reached.

My review of this appeal has been conducted in accordance with 36 CFR 215.18, *Formal review and disposition procedures*. I have reviewed the appeal record, including the recommendations of the Appeal Reviewing Officer. A copy of her recommendation is enclosed. The Appeal Reviewing Officer focused her review on the appeal record and the issues that were raised in your appeal.



Appeal Decision

After a detailed review of the record and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's recommendation, I affirm the Responsible Official's decision on the Mt. Ashland Ski Area Project.

This decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)]. A copy of this letter will be posted on the national appeals web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/appeals>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nora B. Rasure (for):

KENT P. CONNAUGHTON
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Debbie Anderson
Maurice L Moss
David J Krantz
Steven R Johnson